

My Brother Ed





Ed Noe, 3

Point Pleasant, NJ



Washington, D.C. 1974 Mom, Bob, Laura and Eddie



The 1990s

Quest

Take me past
the guarded place
in you
where confusion
covers itself
in unrelenting confidence
then marches on
in lively steps
Take off the façade
let it fall away
into nowhere
Turn around and face me
I search the infinite depth
where beyond all entrenchments
I find your thirst
to be met
and understood
the sadness in your bones,
the want of your silent cries
to be heard
and be known—
abiding within those
unseen landscapes
is a world of precious
dreams
Let me touch where
the battle wounds
lie quietly healing—
Buried beneath
an armored sheath
rests a lifetime of love
and loneliness,
blame and triumph,
honor and defeat
Within this blended web
of scars and treasures,
glistening with honesty,
there you are—
I found you,
beneath the soldier's plated heart
So loosen the knots around my own
see all its agony bared and mending
and in between each open space
we'll breathe upon the frailty
All the wishful longings to be had
bring to me yours
as I meet you there with mine.

from Hope is a Traveler by Susan Frybort



Ed hitchhiked from New England to Alaska, and back in the early 90s.
The community of New Milford, CT became his home in 2006.

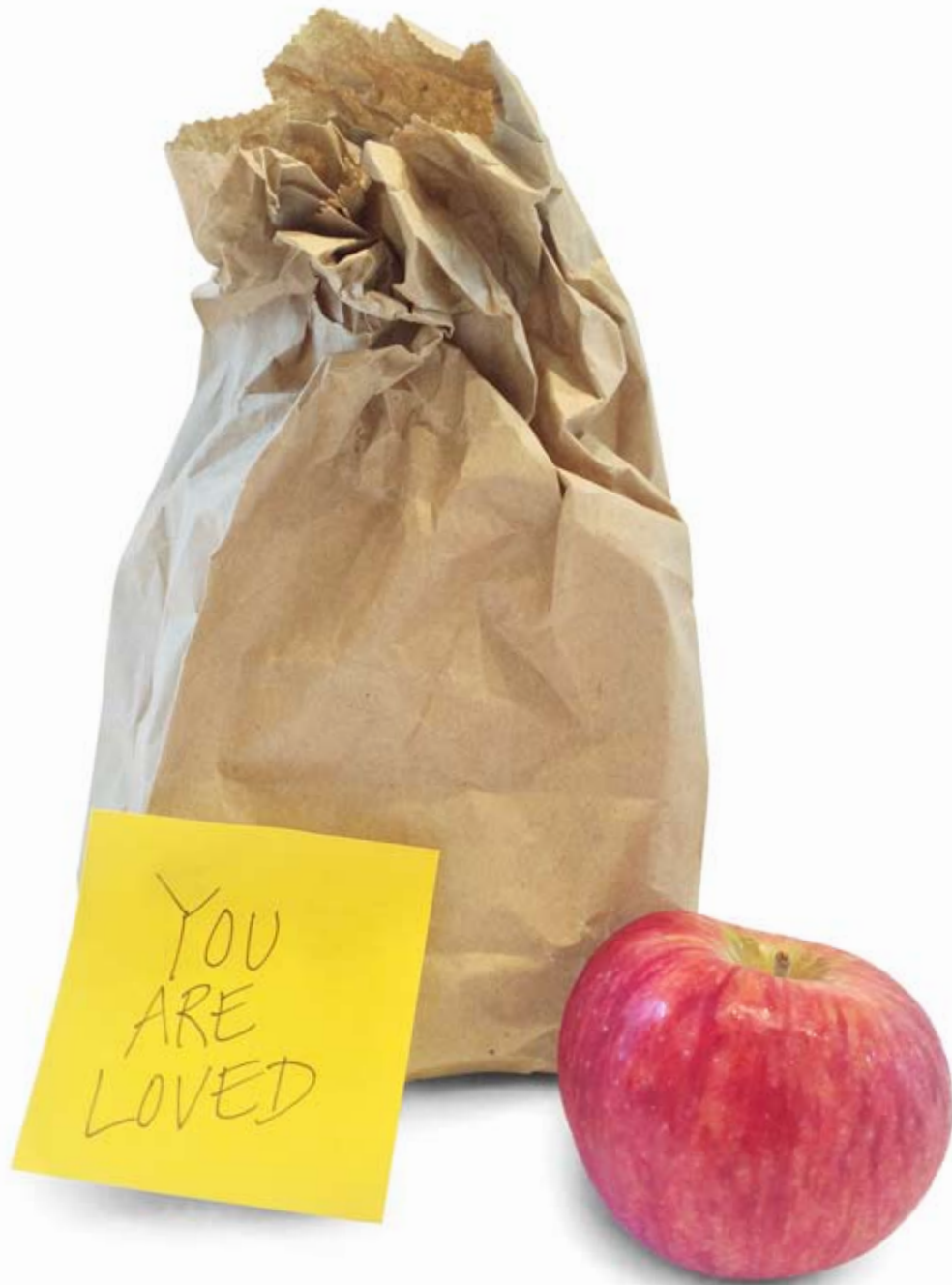




Ed, February 2015 New Milford Green - living outside



Ed, in New Milford September 2015



ANGELS



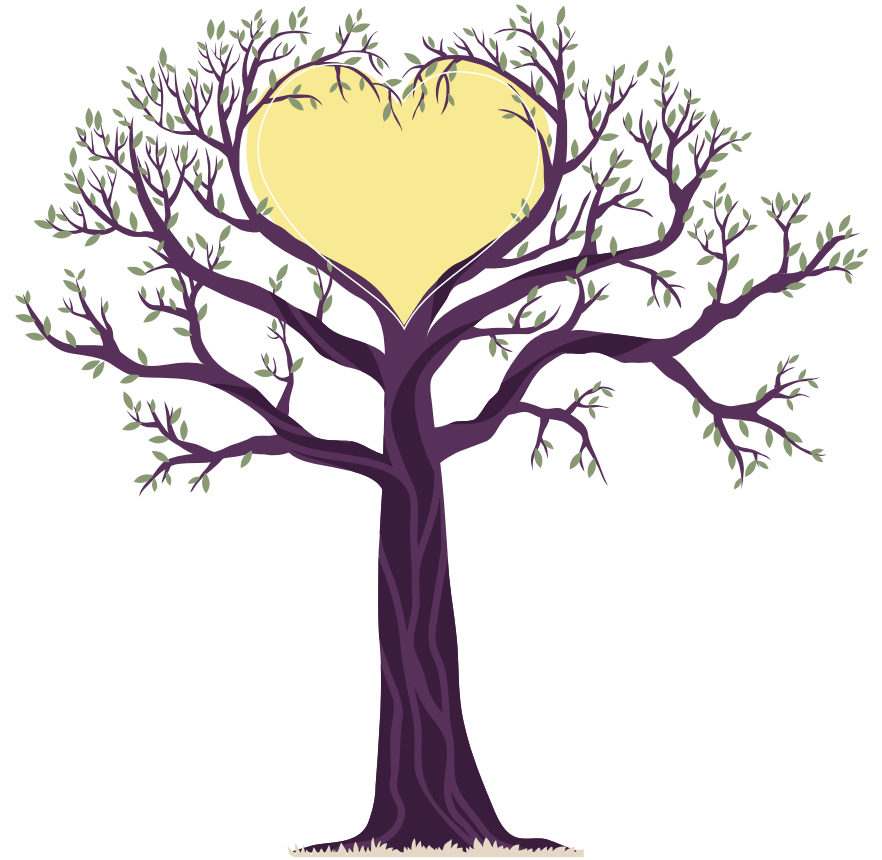
Christine Maat - Scott

Angel Salinas



Johana's
47 Main St.
New Milford, CT
(860) 354-5115

Ed reconnects with Angel, May 6, 2016



"Angel Salinas had met Ed Noe when he opened his restaurant, Johana's, on Main Street, in 2006. He was put off by Ed at first, but said he learned to see beyond the dirty clothes and knotted beard. He saw a man in need, a man with a big heart.

For the last nine years, Salinas said, he's fed Ed Noe almost every day. He also let him sleep in the small back entranceway to the restaurant.

Salinas, 41, said customers would often give him \$5 and \$10 to buy Noe some coffee or a plate of food. He always gave the money to Ed, hoping that he'd use it to buy himself dinner when the restaurant was closed at night. But the kindness wasn't just one-way. Noe would often help unload groceries, and whenever Salinas started to take out the garbage, Noe would do it for him, saying, "I'm stronger."

"Eddie was a nice guy to me," Salinas said. "I'm happy he's being taken care of, but I'm going to miss him."

Riggs, M. (2015, November 1). Danbury 'care team' aids man homeless for 25 years. *Danbury News-Times*, cover.

October 5, 2015

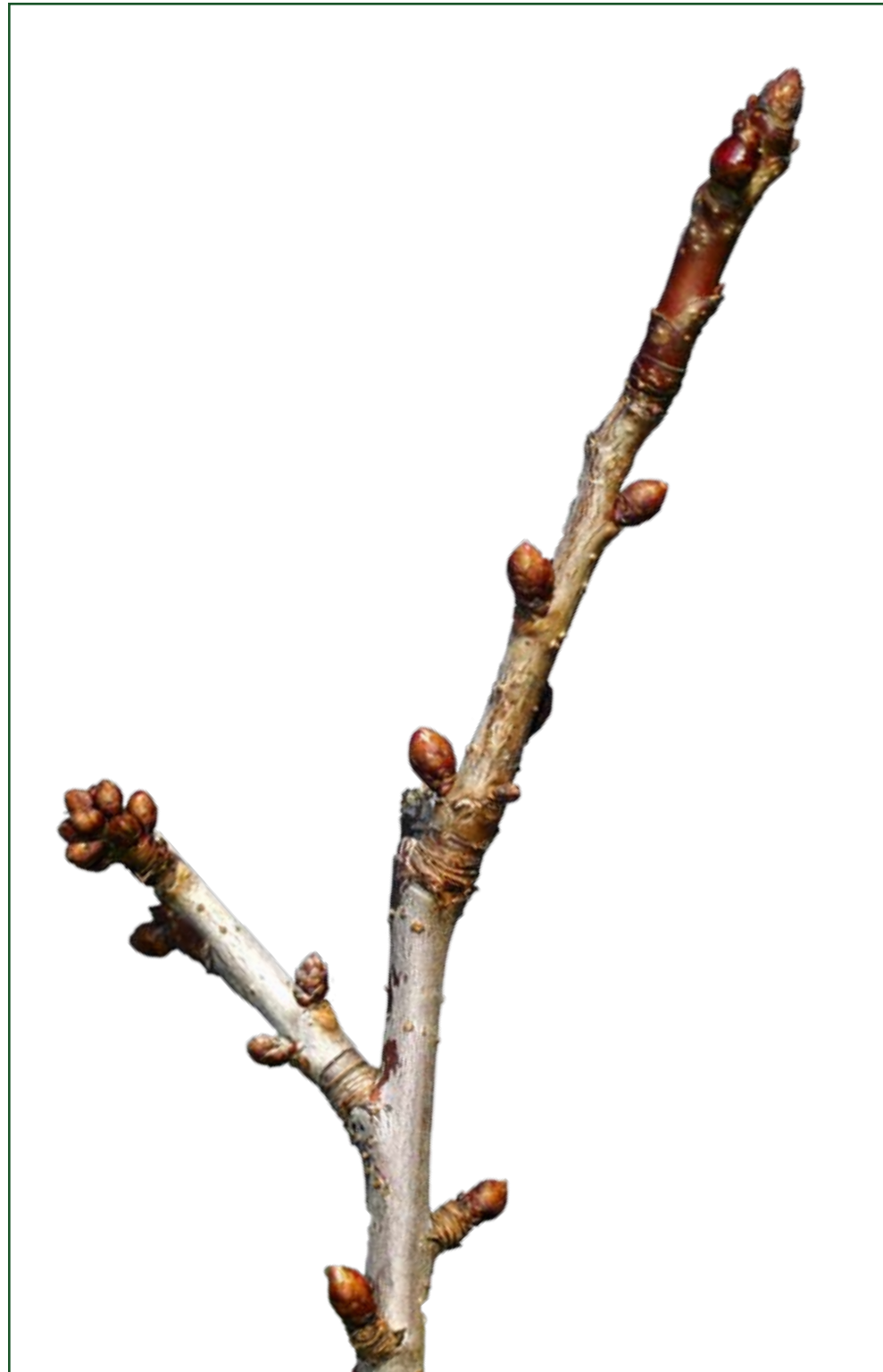
Ed says 'yes' to help and healing. He is admitted to Danbury Hospital and stays there until January 20, 2016

Diagnosed with a mental health condition.
Prescribed medications.
Ed works with Danbury Hospital staff attending therapy sessions and group meetings.



Pictured here with Laura (sister & co-conservator) and nephew Hudson

Probate Judge deems Ed unable to take care of himself. Two conservators are assigned.





January 20, 2016

Ed is admitted to Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH). Ed works with staff attending twice monthly treatment plan meetings which outline and direct Ed towards his desired life goals. Ed takes suggestions of staff, participating in on-campus walks, movie night, swimming and yoga and meditation classes.



Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) Middletown

February day pass from CVH

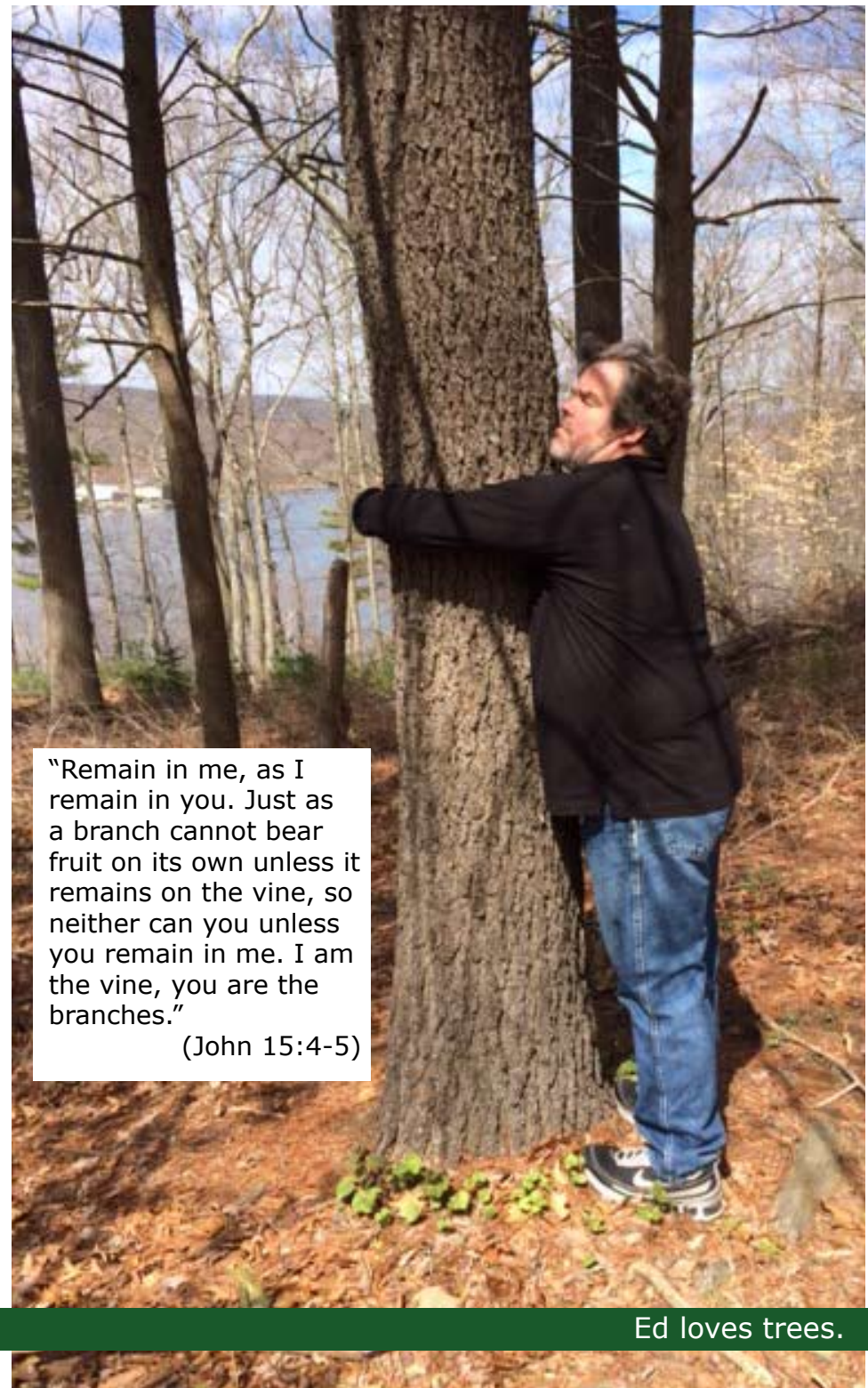


"Biologists say that trees are social beings. They can count, learn and remember. They nurse sick members, warn each other of danger by sending electrical signals across a fungal network and for reasons unknown, keep ancient stumps of long felled companions alive for centuries by feeding them a sugar solution through their roots"

- Suzanne Simard, professor of forest ecology at the University of British Columbia. She has tested theories about how trees communicate with other trees.



We walk, we talk, he hugs trees. We heal.



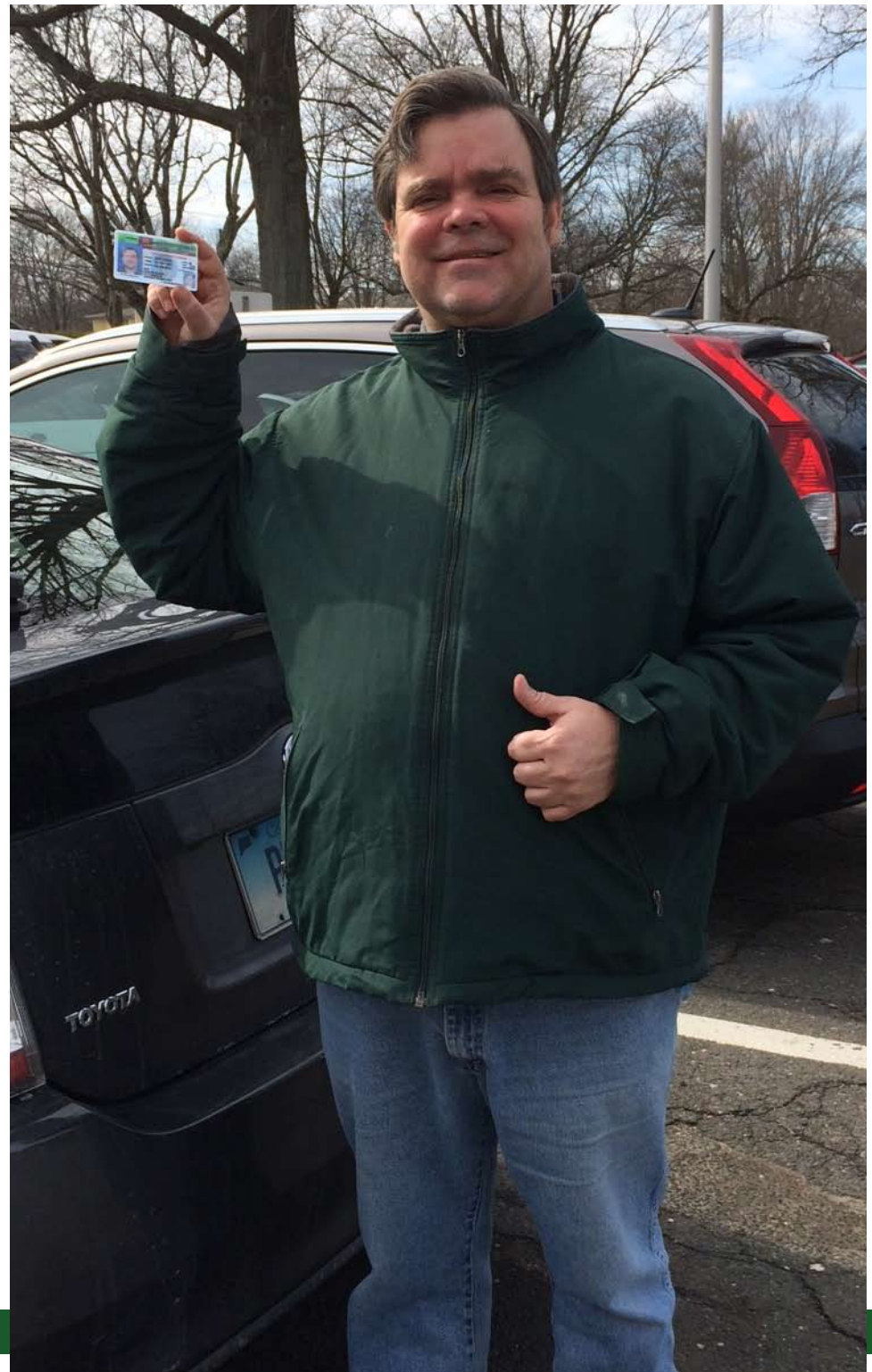
"Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches."

(John 15:4-5)

Ed loves trees.

"I feel like a person again."
-Ed

Ed is smiling at DMV in Wethersfield. After three attempts, he has a photo I.D.





April 2016 Day pass at Wadsworth Falls State Park



Ed in front of Amur cork tree





Walk in the woods with Ed. Healing happens. April 2016

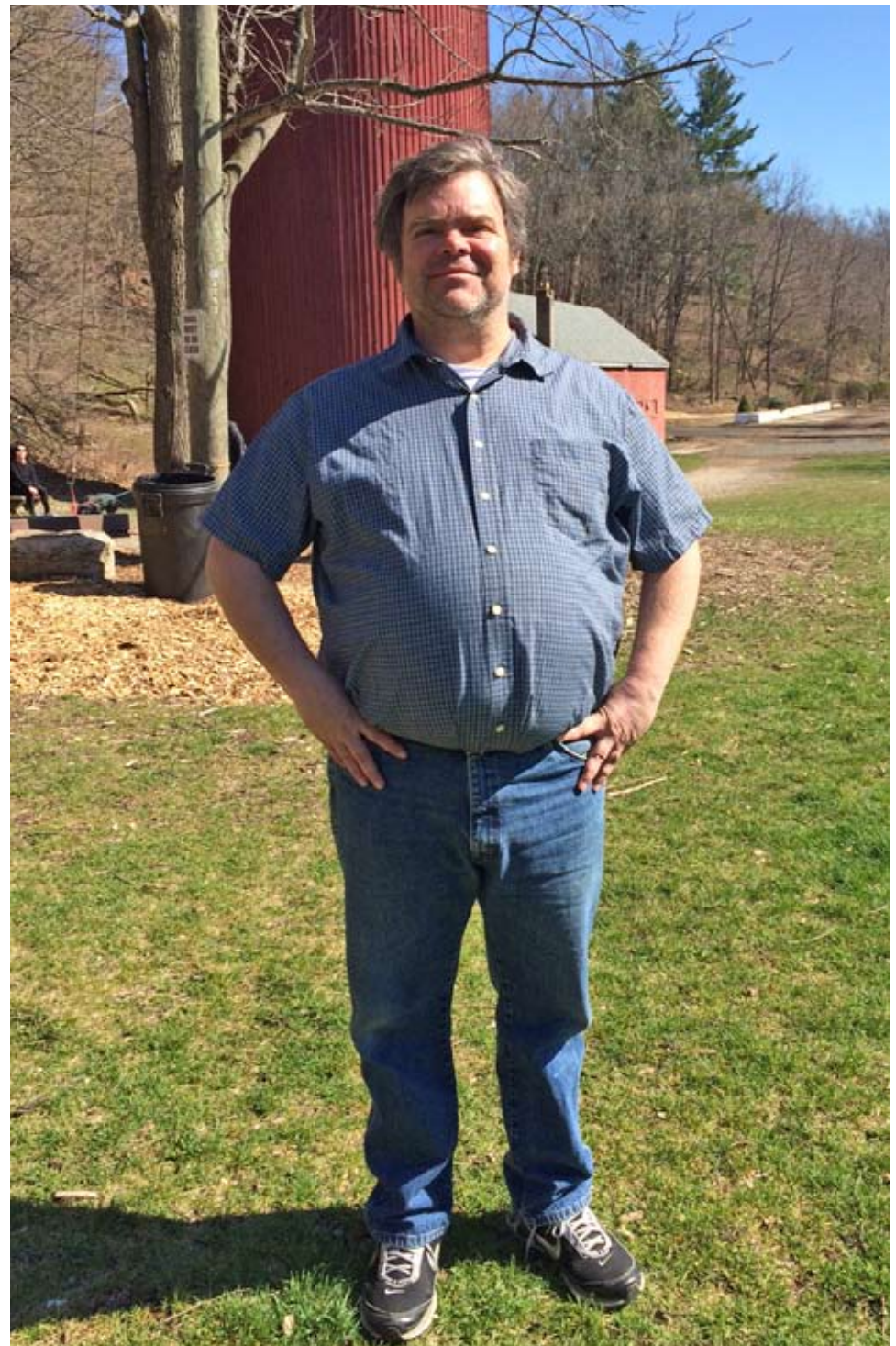


Ed on a bridge at Wadsworth Falls State Park. April 2016





Spring 2016 Ed in transitional housing. Danbury, CT

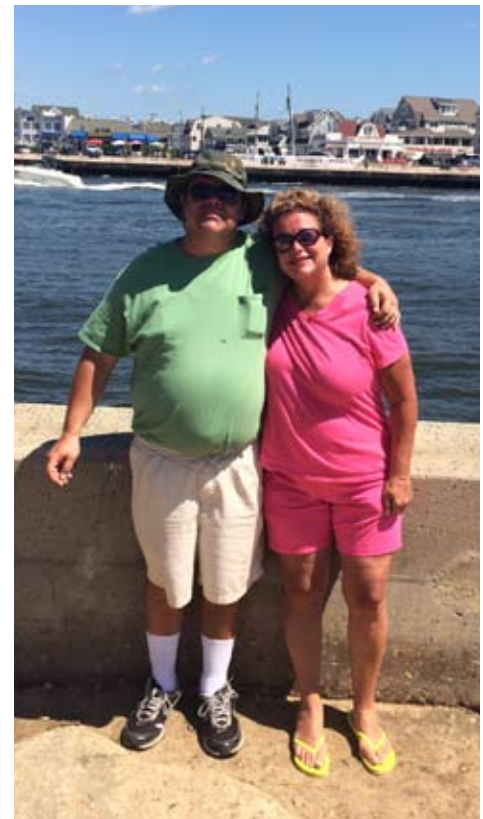


Spring 2016 Hiking Tarrywile Park. Danbury, CT



"The best Easter ever."

- Ed Noe



April 2016 Pictured with family

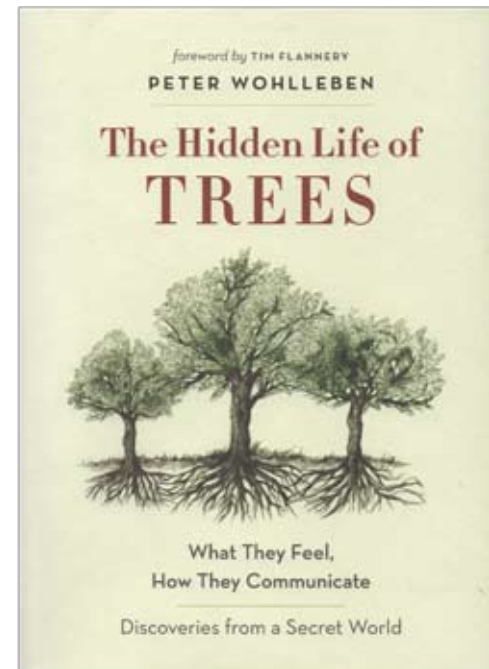
August 2016 Scattering Dad's ashes at Point Pleasant Inlet, NJ.



October 2016 Laura and Ed in Branford.

"In the normal course of events, such survival would not be possible, because without bark the tree cannot transport sugar from its leaves to its roots. As the roots starve they shut down their pumping mechanisms, and because water no longer flows through the trunk up to the crown, the whole tree dries out. However, many of the trees I girdled continued to grow with more or less vigor. I know now that this was only possible with the help of intact neighboring trees. Thanks to the underground network, neighbors took over the disrupted task of provisioning the roots and thus made it possible for their buddies to survive. Some trees even managed to bridge the gap in their bark with new growth, and I'll admit it: I am always ashamed when I see what I wrought back then. Nevertheless, I have learned from this just how powerful a community of trees can be. 'A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.' Trees could have come up with this old crafts-person's saying. And because they know this intuitively, they do not hesitate to help each other out."

From *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben



Ed Noe Lifeline

- April 9, 1967 born in Carmel, NY to parents Robert + Dorothy Noe, sister Laura and brother Bob
- Lives on Carillon Road Brewster, NY until 1972
- Moves to Flax Hill Road Brookfield, CT
- Attends Brookfield schools, graduates from St. Thomas More School in 1986
- Attends University of Maine in Orono earns a degree in Forestry
- Moves back to Brookfield, CT
- October 1990 mom dies of inoperable brain tumor
- Dad sells house and remarries in 1992, Ed becomes nomadic and hitchhikes across the country
- Intermittent contact from 1992-2006
- January 2015 dad is diagnosed with seven brain lesions prompting older sister Laura to use social media to find Ed
- Two days after the funeral, on February 16, 2015, Laura receives text “Ed is on the New Milford green wearing a brown coat”
- February 17, 2015 Laura and Ed reunite after nine years
- Laura drives to New Milford every two weeks with a brown bag lunch, including a note ‘You are loved’ and hope
- Laura signs up and participates in free 12-week NAMI Family to Family (F2F) class to learn more about mental illness and to be connected to support groups
- Laura finds out Ed has been homeless in New Milford, CT for nine years and been lovingly taken care of by the community
- October 5, 2015 Ed says ‘yes’ to help and healing. An intervention team transports him to Danbury Hospital for cut on left ankle
- Voluntarily admitted for psychiatric treatment
- Ed diagnosed as mentally ill, prescribed medication
- October 27, 2015 probate hearing. Judge assigns two conservators
- Ed stays in Danbury Hospital until a bed is available at Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH)
- January 20, 2016 Ed is transported to CVH Merritt Hall
- Sister/co-conservator Laura attends twice monthly treatment plan meetings at CVH with Ed. Ed’s diagnosis is changed. DSM 5 consulted for definition
- Social worker and doctors suggest Ed partake in CVH services. Ed signs up and participates in yoga, swimming, group walks and meditation
- Ed works with an occupational therapist at CVH where he (re) learns basic life skills
- Doctors, in collaboration with Ed, determine that Ed can live within the community with substantial support
- A representative of the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) attends treatment plan meetings
- Laura and Ed request and receive frequent day passes and they hike into the woods
- March 2015 Ed gets photo I.D. from DMV and says “I feel like a person again”
- April 9 Laura and Ed celebrate Ed’s 49th birthday eating fried clams at Bill’s Seafood in Westbrook, CT
- DMHAS representative finds housing for Ed in Danbury
- May 5, 2016 Ed moves from CVH to transitional housing program (THP) in Danbury
- Ed lives in a house with 19 other people who have 24-hour supervision and support
- June 2016 Ed comes to Branford, CT to visit sister Laura and plays Scrabble with nephew Hudson
- June 2016 Ed visits Branford and celebrates his Aunt Helen’s 90th birthday
- August 2016 visits Branford and spends the day on a beach raft with nephew Hudson. Laura, Hudson and Ed drive to Point Pleasant, NJ to scatter their dad’s ashes at the Manasquan Inlet
- Ed calls Laura, “I bought a bicycle!”
- Inspired by Ed, Laura joins the board of NAMI CT
- October 2016 Ed visits Branford, hikes with sister through the Supply Ponds
- Ed celebrates Thanksgiving in Branford with his sister and nephew



Contact: Laura Noe
38 Waverly Park Rd.
Branford, CT 06405
203 500-9495
noemarketing@yahoo.com



Threefold wisdom of the tree:
Leaf-wisdom of change, ever releasing.
Branch-wisdom of growth, ever reaching.
Root-wisdom of endurance, ever deepening.
-Celtic Triad